



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 5, 2000

### **H.R. 828** **Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
on September 27, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost about \$1 billion over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 828 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 828 would authorize the appropriation of \$45 million over the 2002-2004 period for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide new grants to states to conduct pilot projects related to the control of stormwater and improved sewer management practices. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 billion over the 2002-2003 period for new grants to states and municipalities to address sewer overflow problems. In addition, this legislation would require EPA to report to the Congress on local government resource needs to improve sewer management practices, and to maintain a clearinghouse for technologies used to control sewer management problems. We estimate that these activities would cost about \$1 million in 2003, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. In subsequent years, the cost of maintaining the clearinghouse would be less than \$500,000 a year.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will occur at rates similar to those of other grant programs to control water pollution. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 828 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	760	766	20	0
Estimated Outlays	0	40	153	345	460

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 828 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting sections 3 and 4 would benefit state and local governments by authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants for projects to control stormwater discharges and sewer overflows.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Victoria Heid Hall

Impact on the Private Sector: Tim VandenBerg

## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis